

**No. R-77. House concurrent resolution honoring retiring Bennington District Probate Court Judge Sally I. Cook for her outstanding career accomplishments.**

(H.C.R.41)

Offered by: Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Botzow of Pownal, Browning of Arlington, Campion of Bennington, Komline of Dorset, Mook of Bennington and Wilson of Manchester

Offered by: Senators Hartwell and Sears

Whereas, there is no finer example than Sally Cook of an individual who has continuously persevered to achieve worthy career goals, and

Whereas, as the academically sixth-ranked student in the 1960 Syracuse, New York high school class, she demonstrated the potential for academic and professional success, and

Whereas, Sally Cook began her college studies at the State University of New York at Albany, and after her marriage to John Cook in 1962, they relocated on a number of occasions, requiring her to enroll in local colleges in several different states, and

Whereas, she eventually graduated from Johnson State College's external degree program, after making intermediate higher education stops at the Syracuse University night school, Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, and the State University of New York at Brockport, and

Whereas, in the late 1970s, Sally Cook was introduced to the possibility of a legal career while employed at a Hartford, Connecticut law firm, and

Whereas, Sally Cook's legal ambitions were placed on hold when she taught at the Mt. Anthony Union Vocational School, and

Whereas, in 1989, Sally Cook won the unanimous endorsement of the Bennington County Democratic Party for a midterm Manchester district probate judgeship vacancy, Governor Madeleine Kunin appointed her, and she has retained her seat at every election, and

Whereas, once adjudicating estate-related matters, she soon recognized that more formal legal training would greatly assist her jurisprudential decision-making, and

Whereas, Judge Sally Cook started to read the law with local law firms and Vermont District Court Judge Robert Grussing, and on November 19, 2002, she proudly recited the oath of admission to the Vermont Bar, and

Whereas, when the two Bennington County probate districts were merged in 2008, she assumed the county's newly unified probate judgeship, and

Whereas, after two decades of distinguished judicial service, which has been a great asset to the citizens of Bennington County and the state of Vermont, Judge Sally Cook will step down from the bench on February 1, 2011, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors retiring Bennington District Probate Court Judge Sally I. Cook for her outstanding career accomplishments, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Judge Sally Cook in Bennington.